

**AGENDA ITEM:** Telecommunications Infrastructure**GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:****CURRENT STATUS:***Telecommunication Infrastructure*

Plans for representatives involved in telecommunications infrastructure projects from the regional library networks to meet in Sacramento were postponed to November 15<sup>th</sup>. We will review current activities and plans for the coming year. Topics will also include standards criteria for resource sharing projects, advice for staff on future courses of action, and discussion on the successes and difficulties experienced by each region.

The regional plans of service indicated the following allocation of network budgets for telecommunications programs:

	Telecommunications Budget as % of Network Budget
Cascade Pacific	6%
Golden Gateway	27%
Sierra Valley	22%
Arroyo Seco	38%
Tierra del Sol	8%
Heartland	8%
Gold Coast	18%
Average	18%

Specific services that are defined under the telecommunications program vary by region, which can create some of the discrepancies in budget percentages. Calculation of the percentages was based on plans of service submitted in May 2001.

*E-Rate Program*

The California State Library is responsible for the approval of technology plans from each applicant public library. On October 7<sup>th</sup> staff, in collaboration with Pacific Bell, participated in a web conference on "E-RATE and California Teleconnect Fund for Libraries." The presentation utilized a live audio feed in conjunction with interactive web based visuals. Over forty California library staff participated. This presentation was for both new and experienced library E-rate planners. The process included instant polling of participants with results immediately displayed on the web page. Questions were put to the presenters by instant chat as well as by telephone. Results from the event were encouraging and additional events for E-Rate are being

considered.

The Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) provides affordable access to telecommunications services for all eligible schools and libraries in the United States. The USAC is a not-for-profit corporation appointed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to ensure that the benefits of telecommunications services reach students and communities across the country. Funded at up to \$2.25 billion annually, the program provides discounts on telecommunications services, Internet access and internal connections.

#### *Z39.50 Connectivity*

Staff has worked with the CLSA program staff on the CLSA Z39.50 subsidy and Z39.50 server software grant programs. A high percentage of applicants for the subsidy had their Z39.50 connectivity verified quickly and applications moved forward for funding.

A Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to support the use of the Z39.50 protocol by libraries and to address security concerns about its use in a secure network environment is underway. The CALZIG (California Z39.50 Interest Group) project will also experiment with building a statewide list of Z39.50 accessible catalogs that indicate connection status and conformance with the existing Bath Profile and emerging U.S. National Profile. These profiles specify additional procedures for configuration of the methods of searching the catalogs and indexes needed for standard search statements.

#### **RELATED ISSUE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE:**

Development of Regional Telecommunications programs.

Relevant Committee: Support Services  
Staff Liaison: Ira Bray